

House Opens Debate On Resolution Declaring State of War Against Austria

WAR AGAINST TURKEY AND BULGARIA IS ALSO URGED

With the Austrian war declaration resolution favorably reported to the House today, opening debate clearly showed that sentiment in favor of including Bulgaria and Turkey among the enemies of this country has not cooled, despite President Wilson's recommendation.

Congressman Miller of Minnesota, advocating immediate adoption of the Austrian resolution, urged that Turkey and Bulgaria be included. He pointed out that by withholding such action the United States might "even these countries from Germany."

Envoys' Presence "Menace." "The presence of the Bulgarian and Turkish ministers in Washington is a menace," Miller declared. "Many allied diplomats feel this. Information of our affairs is daily reaching Berlin. How I shall not attempt to say."

Repeatedly Applauded. "We cannot hope to separate Bulgaria and Turkey from Germany and Austria except by force of arms," said Miller.

"We must throw away these intellectual theories and go in wholeheartedly with our allies in common cause against all of the enemy." Miller, while emphatically demanding war on Bulgaria and Turkey, declared he is willing to await the President's decision. He was repeatedly applauded throughout his address. Miller has just returned from the fighting front.

To Protect Americans. Possible intimation that the Administration's counsel against an immediate declaration against Bulgaria and Turkey is in reality but a play for time until Americans in these countries can leave was given by Congressman Boyd, chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, who took the floor immediately after Miller.

"A great number of Americans would be in great danger should the United States declare war on Turkey at this time. If we are to declare war, we must at least give them time to get out."

At the same time, Flood, enumerating reasons why war declarations should be withheld, declared the Government had information that Germany's lesser allies were weakening in their support.

Flood here read to the House the United Press interview of yesterday with Bulgarian Minister Panetoff, in which the envoy asked that the President's message to Congress be transmitted to his country.

Have Been At War. The state of war between the United States and Austria has been an "actual fact for many months," the committee's report stated, and "very little readjustment of affairs" between the two countries will therefore be involved.

"Depredations on American lives and rights by Austrian naval forces has been small compared with those of Germany, but they have been included in an attempt to constitute war on this country," the report declared.

The report then cited past activities of discharged Austrian Ambassador Dumba and Austrian consuls at St. Louis and New York toward tying up war work in this country.



Sparkle

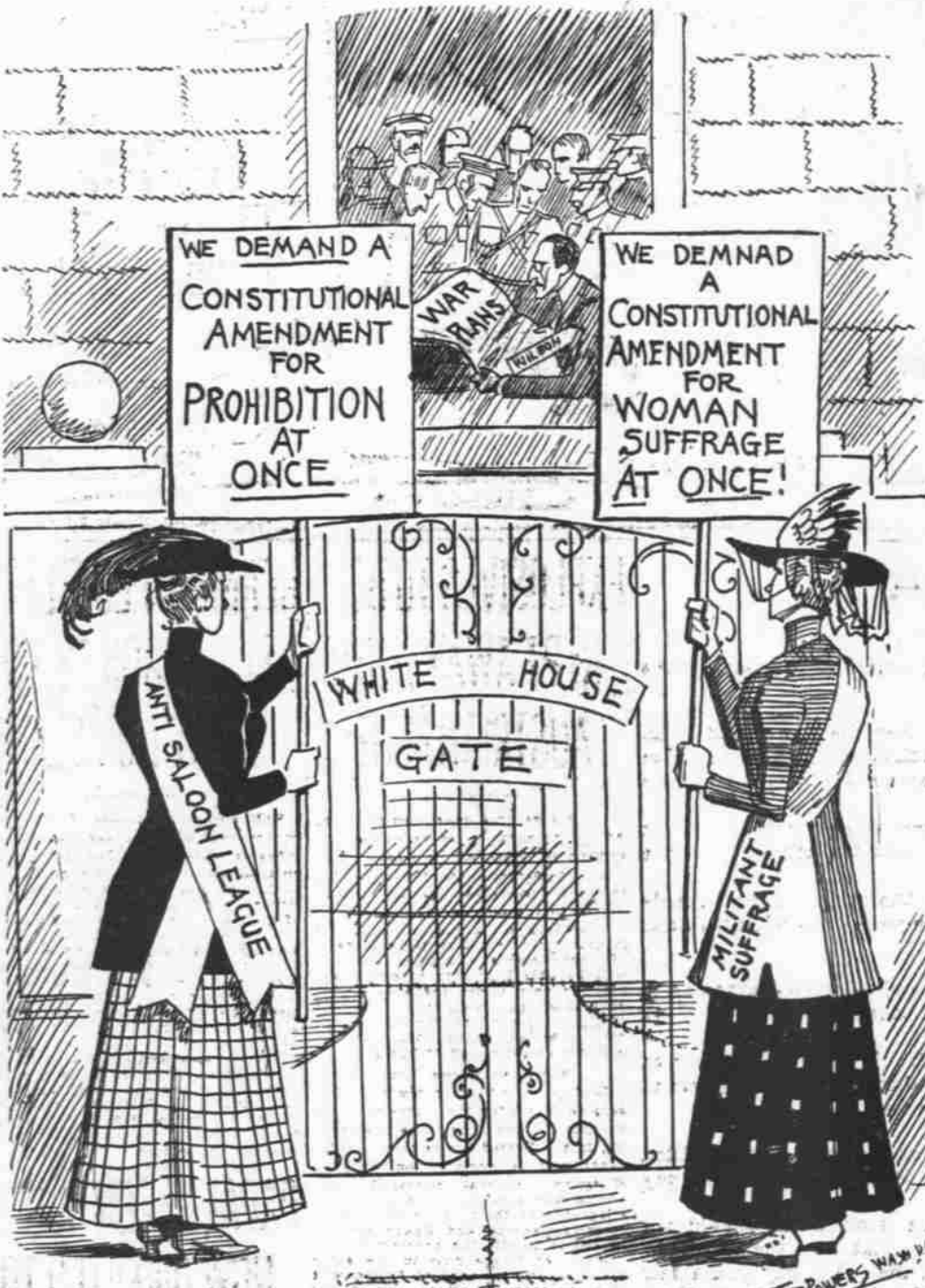
It used to be only imported ginger ale that would hold its flavor—now it's Clysmyc Ginger Ale for sparkle, for flavor, for tang!

Clysmyc Ginger Ale

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The Wrong Place and the Wrong Time

By T. E. POWERS



BLAZE WIPES OUT MUNITIONS PLANT AT NEWCASTLE, DEL.

NEWCASTLE, Del., Dec. 6.—Fire of undetermined origin today practically destroyed the plant of the Wilmington Fiber Specialties Company. The loss is estimated at \$300,000. Munitions plants adjoining escaped damage.

DETECTIVES CALLED IN ON AETNA EXPLOSION

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 6.—Federal agents were called in today to assist the police and company detectives in investigating the explosion here yesterday in the "T. N. T." plant of the Aetna Chemical Company, which resulted in death to eight and serious injury to twenty-five other employees. The loss may reach \$300,000. Windows were shattered in factories and homes for a radius of nearly two miles.

DEATHS

MULLAN—On Wednesday, December 5, 1917, at 11 a. m., at his residence, 1227 Twelfth street, north, after a lingering illness, SAMUEL E. MULLAN, husband of Mary M. Mullan. Funeral tomorrow morning. Requiem high mass at St. Patrick's Church at 3 o'clock. Interment private.

SHEPARD—On Monday, December 3, 1917, at 7:30 p. m., at Garfield Hospital, RUTH SHEPARD, chief justice of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, retired. Funeral services at St. John's Church, between 14 and 15 streets northwest, at 2 p. m., today. Interment in Rock Creek Cemetery.

SHEPARD—The members of Camp No. 111, United Confederate Veterans' Association, will attend in uniform the funeral of our late comrade RUTH SHEPARD, chief justice of the Court of Appeals, retired, from St. John's Church, between 14 and 15 streets northwest, at 2 p. m., Thursday, December 6.

By order of FRED BEALL, Commander. LOVICK PIERCE, Adjutant.

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HALIFAX EXPLOSION

(Continued From Page One.) are being rushed to the Canadian naval port from every town within eighty miles.

The northwestern portion of the city is burning. From messages received here it is evident the explosion came when an American munitions steamer was rammed amidships by an incoming vessel.

Buildings three miles from the scene were damaged. The roof of the Halifax railway station was torn off. So terrific was the explosion that the report was plainly heard here, sixty miles from Halifax. It will probably take several days to restore telegraphic communication.

Halifax City On Fire.

TORONTO, Ontario, Dec. 6.—"Halifax city is on fire," said a message received this afternoon by J. D. Reid, minister of railways, from Divisional Superintendent Hayes, of the Inter-Colonial railway at Moncton, N. B.

"The fire is spreading," declared the dispatch. "We are sending special trains out of Moncton, and every city with fire apparatus is also being used. We are also picking up fire apparatus between Moncton and Sydney and rushing it to Halifax. The situation is bad."

Another message received by Reid said: Every building north of the Queen Hotel is totally wrecked. North street station is in ruins, as well as our plant at Willow Park, and there is one mass of wreckage and dead bodies in the north end of the city. Special trains from Sydney with doctors, nurses, and hospital supplies are on their way. Am also arranging for food supplies and to send coaches to Halifax to take people away."

Moncton Sends Aid.

MONCTON, New Brunswick, Dec. 6.—Four hospital trains with nurses, surgeons, and supplies are being rushed to Halifax and another is en route there carrying fire-fighting equipment, an official of the Canadian government railway declared this afternoon.

United States Navy Department Inquiries.

The United States Navy Department is making inquiries and endeavoring to get information as to the explosion at Halifax. Before noon nothing had been received aside from press dispatches. All inquiries by the department are being made by cable. Wireless will not be called into play unless this is found to be the only means of communication, owing to the desire of keeping any information that might be of value to the Germans out of the air, where it might be picked up.

Telephone Used.

Falling to get immediate response to its inquiries by cable, the Navy Department tried to get in touch with Canadian officials by long distance telephone this afternoon. Naval officers displayed concern over the fate of the American munitions vessels and were extremely anxious to obtain details of the collision.

PAY INCREASE FOR CLERKS ASSURED, SAY CONGRESSMEN

(Continued from First Page.)

larger program of the Federation of Federal Employees for increases ranging from 25 per cent for the poorer paid clerks to 5 per cent for those receiving as high as \$2,500 per year. This proposition has many advocates among members, while others will favor increases as proposed in Congressman Henry Z. Osborne's bill introduced yesterday for 10 and 15 per cent.

Congress Favors Clerks. Members of Congress favorable to the increase have sounded the sentiment of their colleagues with the determination to accomplish the most possible. They state they find the situation this: A good majority will support a measure of at least partial action to be dealt with comes this question being raised by members, not opposed to the general proposition of an increase, as to whether this increase should extend to the great number of employees who have entered the service recently under stress of the war needs of the Government.

Objection will be raised in the Appropriations Committee to extending the benefits of this increase of pay to war appointees. Many of these, in the opinion expressed by members of the House, were appointed under lump sum appropriations at salaries in most instances much higher than those paid for a higher grade of work done by clerks who have devoted their lives to the Government service.

May Except War Appointees.

The employment of these additional clerks in the departments is looked upon as temporary. It is argued that no change of condition has come about since their employment, and that the present conditions were taken into consideration in the salaries paid them which they accepted as sufficient to induce them to enter the service.

In testing the sentiment of their colleagues on the floor of the House, some members of the Appropriations Committee who are distinctly friendly to the proposed increase, and intend to devote their energies to obtaining it, the impression has been obtained that an attempt to include new war appointees in the general increase would seriously endanger the whole proposition.

"These employees will not be included in any increase is more than probable."

Congressman Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee, who was chairman of the subcommittee that effected the compromise by which the clerks received

their increase for one year, will lead the fight this year. Although owing to his position on the Appropriations Committee, Mr. Byrns will not be quoted on matters of policy with which the committee will have to deal, he is known to have the same views now he had last year when he led the successful fight which brought widely divergent views to a common agreement.

Conditions have not changed from last year, he said today, "except for the worse, if anything. It is safe to say that Congress will enact some legislation looking to the betterment of the clerks' condition. Whether the increase will be the same granted last year or a little more, depends on developments in Congress. Personally, I realize that the most that can be hoped for from Congress is little enough."

"I believe that a distinction should be made in actual dollars between the clerk who receives \$1,200 or under, and the \$1,800 clerk. For instance, a scale should be determined on that would assure the poorer paid clerk a greater actual money increase than received by the higher paid clerk. Under the 5 and 10 per cent scale the \$600 clerk gets a \$30 raise and the \$1,800 gets \$90. When the cost of living begins to climb, it is more difficult for the \$600 clerk to retrench, and his sacrifices are greater than those of the \$1,800 clerk."

To Pass Osborne Bill.

The bill introduced by Congressman Osborne yesterday providing for a 10 and 15 per cent raise, will be pressed to passage, Mr. Osborne stated today.

"I shall earnestly ask the support of my colleagues for my bill," Mr. Osborne said, "believing that the most Congress is likely to do, will be little enough. Government clerks—and I include the postoffice employees, who were not included last year—are greatly underpaid. The cost of living has mounted greatly in excess of the clerks' ability to pay, and their claim for adequate salaries under present conditions is a just one. I am willing to vote bills to successfully carry on the war, and as many millions as necessary to properly care for the nation's army of civil employees."

Pay Below Expenses.

"The average pay of Government employees," the statement shows, "is \$848 per annum."

"The average cost of living for a family in Washington was \$1,082.50 in 1916."

"The increase in the cost of necessities this year is 30 per cent."

CITIZENS MAY PROTEST RISE.

Representatives of all citizens' associations, civic organizations and individuals will have an opportunity to express their opinion as to the equity of the proposal of the Washington Gas Light Company and the Georgetown Gas Light Company to increase their rates, at a hearing before the Public Utilities Commission at the District Building on December 11.

RAILROADS WILL BE UNIFIED SOON AFTER JANUARY 1

The railroads of the country will be operating as a unit soon after the start of the year.

Whether they will be operated under a dictatorship established by railroad men themselves, or under Government control, is yet to be determined. But sentiment in Congress today made it apparent that, upon word from President Wilson, yesterday's recommendations of the Interstate Commerce Commission will be acted upon.

To Use Waterways.

With the unification of railroads, it is believed plans will be developed for greater use of the waterways of the country to relieve freight congestion. It is imperative from the standpoint of the Government that every means of transportation be called into play, and put on a war basis.

The railroads favor a self-imposed dictatorship. A campaign for a Government loan of \$100,000,000 to the railroads is already under way. Congressmen and Senators are being flooded with telegrams and letters, urging their support to the plan for a loan and unified control by the railroads themselves, as against Government control.

Rail and Ship Men Meet.

Representatives of railroads and steamship lines conferred today with Senator Newlands, chairman of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, regarding unification of the railroads as recommended by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Legislation to aid in unification under railroad control was discussed. Those attending the conference were Samuel R. Bee, president of the Pennsylvania railroad; Howard Elliott, of the New Haven; Julius Kruschnitt, of the Southern Pacific; C. S. Neil, representing steamship lines; Fairfax Harrison, chairman of the railroad war board, and Daniel Willard, head of the War Industries Board.

To Confer With President.

Interstate Commerce Committees of the House and Senate will discuss the problem with President Wilson within a few days. Senator Newlands of Nevada, chairman of the Senate committee, will see the President Monday, and will arrange for the conference.

President Wilson Today Called.

Henry C. Hall, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, for a conference at 3 o'clock regarding the recommendation of the commission that railroads of the country be operated as a unit.

In the meantime House and Senate

committees will consider the Senate resolution for Government control of mines and railroads, while the Senate Judiciary Committee today takes up the German resolution to suspend until January 1 the portion of the Clayton act prohibiting railroads buying supplies except by competitive bidding.

The general feeling among Congressmen today was that the country is on the brink of Government control, which will ultimately lead to Government ownership of railroads. Senator Newlands agrees that the railroads should be operated as a unit. He is opposed to Government ownership at this time, however.

Executive's Move Awaited.

No House action on the transportation situation will come before the President sends Congress a special railroad message as mentioned in his opening address. Acting Chairman Simmons of the House Interstate Commerce Committee said today.

House members, however, have already started to split along sharp lines. Strong sentiment has developed for outright operation by the President. Chairman Simmons wants this as a war measure, though he will support the private control unification should the President favor that course.

Drawings of the first party division since the United States entered the war loomed up should Government control come to the forefront. Republicans headed by Minority Leader Gillett, of Massachusetts, were defeated against any encroachment by the Government—even as a war measure—which would lead to possible Government ownership.

NEW HAVEN ASKS I. C. C. FOR LEAVE TO INCREASE CHARGES AT TERMINALS

An application has been received by the Interstate Commerce Commission from the New Haven railroad for permission to increase its charges for unloading, storing and cartage of freight. This application is in accordance with a unanimous vote of the commission this terminal charges by railroads have long been insufficient.

MAY STOP INTERMARRIAGE.

The intermarriage of whites with negroes or Mongolians in the District of Columbia would be prohibited, if a bill were passed which was introduced today by Congressman Candler of Mississippi. The bill is one which has been up in previous sessions. It was referred to the District Committee.